AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of promoting extension of corneal nerve axon in a subject with a damaged or cut corneal nerve axon, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject with a damaged or cut corneal nerve axon in need of the promotion of extension of the corneal nerve axon.

14. (Currently amended) A method of recovering decreased corneal sensitivity ~~associated with corneal nerve damage~~in a subject with a damaged or cut corneal nerve axon, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject with a damaged or cut corneal nerve axon in need of the recovery of corneal sensitivity.

15. (Currently amended) A method of treating dry eye ~~associated with decrease of corneal sensitivity~~in a subject with a damaged or cut corneal nerve axon, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject with a damaged or cut corneal nerve axon affected with dry eye.

16. (Currently amended) A method of treating corneal epithelium defect ~~associated with decrease of corneal sensitivity~~in a subject with defective corneal epithelium, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~having corneal epithelial defect~~with a defective corneal epithelium.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the decreased corneal sensitivity is decreased corneal sensitivity after surgery.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.